

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NU

SUBJECT: NOVEDADES ATTACKS RAMIRO SACASA

1. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A WEEK THE SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER NOVEDADES PUBLISHED A FRONT PAGE ATTACK ON LIBERAL DISSIDENT RAMIRO SACASA. IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 19 UNDER THE HEADLINE "RAMIRO SACASA ON THE QUAGMIRE", THE NEWSPAPER ASSAILED SACASA FOR HIS SUGGESTION A MONTH AGO THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH ALL OPPOSITION SECTORS, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL SANDINIST LIBERATION FRONT (FSLN). NOVEDADES ACCUSED SACASA OF IGNORING THE "CRIMES, ARMED ASSAULTS, TERRORIST ATTACKS, EXTORTIONS AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC PERPETRATED BY THE SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT" AND WONDERED HOW A LAWYER COULD THINK THAT A DIALOGUE BETWEEN "AUTHORITY AND CRIME" WAS POSSIBLE. MORE OMINOUSLY, IT STATED THAT SACASA "CONTINUES TO PLOT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ESTABLISHED AUTHORITIES AND TO SUBVERT THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER". TWO DAYS BEFORE, ON APRIL 17, NOVEDADES HAD GIVEN PROMINENT DISPLAY TO THE STATEMENT BY IMPRISONED FSLN LEADER TOMAS BORGE THAT AFTER THE 1972 EARTHQUAKE SACASA HAD BEEN CONSIDERED AS THE POTENTIAL LEADER OF AN ANTI-SOMOZA COUP.

COMMENT: ATTACKS ON SACASA IN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT MEDIA

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HAVE BEEN ON THE INCREASE SINCE THE SUCCESSFUL SACASISTA-UDEL

MEETING HELD AT THE LA GUESTA COUNTRY CLUB ON JULY 25, WHERE SACASA MADE HIS CONTROVERSIAL CALL FOR A DIALOGUE WITH THE FSLN. THE MEETING, OSTENSIBLY TO CELEBRATE SACASA'S BIRTHDAY, WAS ATTENDED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS, INCLUDING A LARGE CONTINGENT FROM LEON, AND BY THE LEADERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT, THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN AND NICARAGUAN SOCIALIST PARTIES, AND UDEL. THE GON'S CONCERN WITH SACASA ORIGINATES IN PART IN THE FACT THAT SACASA, A FORMER SOMOZA MINISTER, STILL RETAINS CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY AMONG LIBERALS. ALSO, THE SACASISTAS, AS THE MOST IMPORTANT "CONSERVATIVE" ELEMENT IN UDEL, BALANCE THE MORE RADICAL SOCIAL CHRISTIANS AND SOCIALISTS AND CONSEQUENTLY CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO ENHANCE THE CREDIBILITY OF THAT ALLIANCE.

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